

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08  
LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NEAE-00 IO-13 /085 W  
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O R 231651Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9666  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 0518

PARIS FOR LABATT

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB PGOV TS  
SUBJECT: PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING CLOSES WITH  
STRONG ATTACK ON "SABOTEURS AND FOREIGN  
INFLUENCES" WITHIN UGTT LEADERSHIP

1. SUMMARY: PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE CLOSED ITS TWO-DAY  
MEETING JANUARY 21 WITH FINAL RESOLUTION OPENING STRONG  
ATTACK ON "DISLOYAL AND FOREIGN INFLUENCES" WITHIN UGTT  
SENIOR RANKS. FINAL RESOLUTION CALLED FOR PASSAGE OF NEW  
LAW ALLOWING MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OPPORTUNITY  
TO CHOSE THEIR LEADERSHIP DEMOCRATICALLY IN CONGRESSES OR  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES TO BE CALLED INTO "EXTRAORDINARY SESSION"  
FOR PURPOSE. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA MET IN FINAL SESSION WITH  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT PALACE AFTERWARDS, EXPRESSING FULL  
SUPPORT FOR DECISIONS TAKEN AND WARNING OF NEED TO TAKE  
ACTION AGAINST "EVIL INFLUENCES AND SABOTEURS". CENTRAL  
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COMMITTEE'S CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS IN NATIONAL ORGANIZA-  
TIONS WAS MET WITH IMMEDIATE AND EVIDENTLY ORCHESTRATED  
APPROVAL FROM IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF EX-UGTT OFFICIALS, WHO  
REPORTEDLY HAD PREVIOUSLY EITHER BEEN EXPELLED OR HAD  
RESIGNED FROM UGTT. UGTT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MET  
AFTERNOON JANUARY 22 TO REVIEW SITUATION, AMID SPECULATION  
THAT GENERAL STRIKE MIGHT BE CALLED. END SUMMARY.

2. PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OPENED MORNING OF JANUARY 20 BY PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA WHO IS ALSO SECRETARY GENERAL OF PARTY. SERIOUS AND STATESMANLIKE SPEECH SET TONE FOR MEETING. NOUIRA PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY RECOGNITION THAT TUNISIAN SOCIETY IS PRESENTLY EXPOSED TO TENSIONS AND CONTRADICTIONS, CAUSES OF WHICH MEETING MUST SEEK TO IDENTIFY. HE SPOKE OF "SOCIAL PARTNERS" IN FRAMEWORK OF JAN. 1977 SOCIAL PACT, AND REMINDED CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES IN COMMON INTEREST.

3. TURNING TO THE UGTT, NOUIRA STATED THAT MEMBERSHIP HAD BEEN LED INTO ERROR. HE RECALLED THAT IN LAST SPRING'S UGTT CONGRESS, MANY OF BASE HAD NOT HESITATED TO DENOUNCE SOCIAL PACT WHICH GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED IN GOOD FAITH WITH UNION LEADERSHIP. UGTT, HE CONTINUED, IS A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEAR TO US, AND FOR WHICH THE PARTY HAS SACRIFICED MUCH". "WE HOLD THAT THE UGTT IS STILL INVULNERABLE AND POWERFUL", HE SAID, "BUT WE HAVE BEEN SURPRISED TO HEAR IT SPEAK WITH A NEW LANGUAGE TO WHICH WE ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED". A POLITICAL CRISIS EXISTS, NOUIRA CONCLUDED, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS A POLITICAL VOID. TUNISIA DOES NOT LACK FOR CADRES, AND OUR POLITICAL ACTIONS ARE BASED ON DIALOGUE AND ON COOPERATION. AT SAME TIME, ONE MUST YIELD TO THE MAJORITY.

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4. NOUIRA'S CLOSING REMARKS REAFFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO ANIMOSITY WITH UGTT AS AN INSTITUTION. "THE WORKERS RANKS ARE HEALTHY", BUT HE WARNED ONE MUST NOT FORGET THE OUTSIDERS WHO HAVE INFILTRATED AMONG THE ORGANIZATIONS'S LEADERSHIP. THEIR ONLY OBJECTIVE IS THE EXPLOITATION OF THE WORKERS FOR THEIR OWN DARK DESIGNS.

5. NOUIRA CALLED ON THE PARTY BASE IN TOUCH WITH UGTT TO AID UNION OFFICIALS IN SEEING THE TRUTH. NOUIRA WARNED OF DANGER PRESENTED BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WITHIN UGTT WHO AIM AT DERAILING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF SOCIETY. THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE REPEATEDLY OF UNNAMED "FOREIGN INFLUENCE", "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS", AND "FOREIGN SUPPORT". LIBYA WAS NOT MENTIONED, BUT THE INFERENCE WAS OBVIOUS.

6. NOUIRA CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY PROCLAIMING TUNISIA'S ATTACHMENT TO PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRATIC AND FREE ELECTIONS, WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT INTRUSION OF IMPORTED IDEOLOGIES OR FOREIGN INTERESTS. THE PSD REJECTS, HE SAID, THE THEORY OF "MULTIPARTISM" AT MOMENT THAT NATION IS BATTLING AGAINST UNDERDEVELOPMENT, AS THIS CONSTITUTES A DANGER FOR

THE STILL FRAGILE NATIONAL UNITY. TRUE DEMOCRACY, HE SAID, DOES NOT NECESSARILY SIGNIFY A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM, BUT IT DOES REQUIRE A SEPARATION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE, THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES AS WELL AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 0518

PARIS FOR LABATT

7. CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE WAS ALL THAT NOUIRA COULD HAVE WANTED. FINAL RESOLUTION SETS OUT FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) CURRENT CRISIS IS NOT RESULT OF SHORTCOMINGS OF PARTY'S NATIONAL POLICIES; (B) CAUSE OF PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY COUNTRY IN RECENT MONTHS IS INTERNAL CRISIS WITHIN UGTT, WHICH HAS DRAWN ITS LEADERSHIP INTO DEVIATIONIST POLICIES AND REJECTION OF COMMITMENTS AND PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE ORGANIZATION IS BASED; (C) PARTY'S CONFLICTS WITH LEADERSHIP OF UGTT IS NOT BASED ON PERSONALITIES BUT RESULTS FROM RECENT DISAGREEMENT OVER IDEOLOGIES AND MODEL OF SOCIETY WHICH ORGANIZATION HAS APPROVED; (D) UGTT DEVIATION HAS OCCURRED BECAUSE SOME OF ITS LEADERS HAVE VIOLATED UGTT'S OWN STATUS, EXPELLED HONEST UNION MEMBERS AND IMPOSED THEIR OWN VIEWS ON THE WORKERS; (E) MANEUVERS UNDERTAKEN BY UGTT LEADERS ARE PART OF PREMEDITATED PLAN TO UNDERMINE TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE, ITS SYSTEM OF DEVELOPMENT AND ITS MODEL OF SOCIETY.

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8. CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S FINAL RESOLUTION THEN MADE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS ON BASIS OF ABOVE ANALYSIS: (A) THAT GOVERNMENT CONTINUE ITS PRESENT POLICIES IN EXISTENCE SINCE 1970, BASED ON COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY AMONG SOCIAL PARTNERS; (B) THAT PARTY AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (UTICA, UNA, UNFT, UGET AND UGTT) PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST EFFORTS TO USE ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST INTERESTS OF MEMBERSHIPS. CENTRAL COMMITTEE SUGGESTS THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASS LAW OFFERING MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN "EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESSES OR GENERAL ASSEMBLIES" OVERSEEN BY NEUTRAL OBSERVERS; (C) THAT PARTY AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AGREE TO SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THEIR RESOURCES AND NEVER TO SOLICIT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE; (D) THAT ALL SOCIAL PARTNERS AGREE TO RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW, INDICATING RIGHT TO WORK AS WELL AS RIGHT TO STRIKE; (E) THAT ALL PARTIES REFUSE FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THAT THEY REJECT COLLUSION WITH FOREIGN POLITICAL FORCES AGAINST LEGAL AUTHORITY OF STATE. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RECEIVED CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN FORMAL AUDIENCE SATURDAY, JANUARY 21. IN BRIEF SPEECH ADDRESSED TO GROUP, HE EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTIONS, WHICH WERE IN COUNTRY'S INTERESTS. "IT APPEARS", BOURGUIBA SAID, "THAT THERE ARE HIDDEN MOTIVES OF EVIL FORCES WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND OUTSIDE, WHO SEEK TO EXPLOIT NATURAL KNOWN DESIRES TO INCREASE PERSONAL INCOME". THIS EXPLAINS, HE CONTINUED, THE INCESSANT DEMANDS FOR SALARY INCREASES WHICH CANNOT BE MET WITHOUT MORTGAGING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN. "WE MUST NOW ADDRESS OURSELVES TO BLOCKING THESE SABOTEURS", WHO HE SAID, ARE USING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UGTT AS A SCREEN WHILE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR CREDIT WITH THE MASSES. HE CLOSED WITH THE APPEAL THAT PARTY REMAIN VIGILANT AND ON GUARD.

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10. CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WERE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY. NUMBERS OF EX-UGTT OFFICIALS WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM LABOR CONFEDERATION AND WHO HAD RESIGNED CALLED FOR HOLDING OF EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL UGTT CONGRESS TO VOTE ON NEW LEADERSHIP, AS SUGGESTED BY PSD CENTRAL COMMITTEE. UTICA HELD NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 21, TO "DENOUNCE EFFORTS AIMED AT DIVIDING THE NATION".

11. UGTT IN TURN RESPONDED BY CALLING MEETING OF  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUNDAY, JAN. 22, AMID INCREASING  
RUMORS THAT AGREEMENT STRIKE WILL BE CALLED.

12. COMMENT: GOT EFFORTS NOW SEEM TO BE CONCENTRATED IN  
SEPARATING UGTT BASE FROM "RADICAL, UNDEMOCRATIC AND  
FOREIGN INFLUENCED ELEMENTS" WHO ARE BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE  
FOR RECENT TROUBLE. IN THIS COURSE THEY NOW HAVE EXPLICIT  
SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA.  
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## Message Attributes

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